



June 15, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative DeGette:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation and the nearly 3 million people living with epilepsy, thank you for introducing the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6), which would accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of lifesaving medical treatments by bringing the nation's health care innovation infrastructure into the 21st Century.

Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime. There is no "one size fits all" treatment for epilepsy, and about a third of people living with epilepsy suffer from uncontrolled or intractable seizures despite available treatments. Uncontrolled seizures can lead to disability, injury, and even death.

Innovation is of particular importance to the nearly one million people living with epilepsy who don't have their seizures under control and are seeking new treatments and a cure, as well as many Americans living with complex chronic and rare conditions that are not appropriately managed with current treatment options.

The 21st Century Cures Act would strengthen the patient voice in the regulatory environment, increase funding for the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration, modernize clinical trials; remove barriers to greater research coordination; and create incentives for developing therapies for rare conditions. H.R. 6 would also require CDC to set up a surveillance system for neurological diseases and we believe epilepsy should be one of the conditions included in the new system.

The Epilepsy Foundation supports the 21st Century Cures Act, which would accelerate the discovery and development of new therapies that individuals with epilepsy and many other complex chronic and rare conditions need to help them live their lives to the fullest potential. Please do not hesitate to contact Angela Ostrom, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President Public Policy at 301-918-3766 or [aostrom@efa.org](mailto:aostrom@efa.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip M. Gattone".

Philip M. Gattone, M.Ed.  
President & CEO  
Epilepsy Foundation